

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently the New York Times asserted that President Obama enjoyed “remarkably high levels of optimism and confidence” among Americans. The very same day, Gallup released a poll with very similar results as the Times poll, but Gallup characterized the result as “typical of how the last several Presidents have fared at the one-month mark.” In other words, not remarkable.

Gallup also found that the number of people who disapproved of the way President Obama is doing his job had doubled in just one month, from 12 percent to 24 percent, and noted that President Obama’s disapproval rating was higher than the average of the last six Presidents.

The Times and Gallup had similar polling results, but the Times gave a very biased report and ignored the historical facts.

At least one member of the White House press corps recognizes his colleagues’ bias in favor of President Obama.

Jake Tapper, ABC’s Senior White House Correspondent, said during a recent interview that some news editors and producers are soft on the President and inclined to “root for him.”

Regarding the media’s bias, Tapper also said: “Certain networks, newspapers and magazines leaned on the scales a little bit.”

It is telling that a man who sees news coverage of the President first-hand on a daily basis would be so forthcoming about the media’s pro-Obama bias.

When it comes to the major issues we face, Americans expect the media to be referees, not cheerleaders.

COMMENDING ROBERT P. PAGE

(Mr. MELANCON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commend Mr. Robert P. Page, an outstanding citizen and business leader from Houma, Louisiana. He is about to complete his term as president of the National Association of Insurance Agents. Mr. Page has distinguished himself throughout his career as a professional insurance agent, even serving as president of the Professional Insurance Agents of Louisiana, and he has exhibited only the highest standards of honesty, integrity and professionalism.

Despite suffering personal losses as a result of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav, Mr. Page has provided uninterrupted service to the clients of his insurance agency in Houma, going above and beyond the call of duty to assist his fellow citizens, who also suffered devastating losses as a result of the hurricanes.

Mr. Page is a tireless advocate of developing a national consensus to come up with a better mechanism to deal with natural catastrophes throughout the United States, serving as a founding member of the Professional Insurance Agents Natural Task Force. With his years of hard work and dedication,

Mr. Page has earned the respect and admiration of his many colleagues throughout the insurance industry, as well as exemplified the motto of his insurance association, “Local Agents Serving Main Street America.”

Therefore, I would like to congratulate and commend Robert P. Page of Houma, Louisiana, upon the successful completion of his term as president of the National Association of Professional Insurance Agents.

STEALTH TAX INCREASE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, somebody has to pay for this massive wasteful spending by the Federal Government.

So to obtain more revenue, the budget proposal is to cut deductions Americans now receive. The charitable giving deduction will be cut. Thus charities, not government entities, by the way, such as churches, the YMCA and groups such as that that feed the hungry and help in disasters, take care of crime victims, and help the homeless, will be struggling for funds. Now the government will get that money.

The removal of this deduction will discourage gifts by Americans. Americans are the most cheerful contributors in the world to charities, but that may now end.

The home mortgage deduction also is going to be reduced. The effect of reducing this deduction and the charitable-giving deduction will have the effect of a stealth tax increase on all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn’t make any sense to raise taxes on anyone during a recession, especially homeowners and those that give to the needy.

And that’s just the way it is.

RECOVERY ACT FIRST STEP IN REFORMING HEALTH CARE

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It is one of the first steps we look in our journey to strengthen and improve our country’s health care system. We can’t fix our economy without fixing health care.

The recovery plan will provide \$20 billion to speed the adoption of health information technology systems by doctors and hospitals. This will modernize our health care system, reduce medical errors, save billions of dollars and create jobs.

Recently, I visited Holzer Medical Center in my district in Gallipolis, Ohio. Doctors there showed me how health IT helps them to speed medical records from doctor to doctor and cut down on extra medical tests. That saves time and money.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that health IT investments will generate up to \$40 billion in savings for Medicare and private health insurance companies. Those savings can be passed along to American families.

I look forward to watching continued improvements at hospitals back home, like Holzer. And I look forward to continuing our work to further improve health care.

BLOCK CONGRESSIONAL PAY RAISES

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to lead by example in this time of economic uncertainty. For that reason, I was encouraged when the House decided to give up its pay raise next year. It is important to send the right message to the American people: a message that says Congress is willing to tighten its belt just like American families are doing across the country.

But we need to go even further. That’s why I hope the leadership in the House will take up my legislation, H.R. 566, blocking all future congressional pay raises until the Federal budget is balanced.

Millions of hardworking Americans only get a salary increase if they produce positive results. Congress should be no different. With our national debt about to surpass \$11 trillion and unemployment in our country surging past 8 percent, we need to hold ourselves to a higher standard. The American people expect and deserve nothing less.

My legislation to block congressional pay raises until we balance the budget offers meaningful reform. I urge Members from both sides of the aisle to support it.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

Washington, DC, March 11, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 11, 2009, at 9:20 a.m.:

That the Senate Passed Without Amendment H.R. 1105.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,

Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

□ 1030

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 22) to designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill, as amended, is as follows:

S. 22

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

Subtitle A—Wild Monongahela Wilderness

Sec. 1001. Designation of wilderness, Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia.

Sec. 1002. Boundary adjustment, Laurel Fork South Wilderness, Monongahela National Forest.

Sec. 1003. Monongahela National Forest boundary confirmation.

Sec. 1004. Enhanced Trail Opportunities.

Subtitle B—Virginia Ridge and Valley Wilderness

Sec. 1101. Definitions.

Sec. 1102. Designation of additional National Forest System land in Jefferson National Forest, Virginia, as wilderness or a wilderness study area.

Sec. 1103. Designation of Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia.

Sec. 1104. Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, Jefferson National Forest, Virginia.

Sec. 1105. Trail plan and development.

Sec. 1106. Maps and boundary descriptions.

Sec. 1107. Effective date.

Subtitle C—Mt. Hood Wilderness, Oregon

Sec. 1201. Definitions.

Sec. 1202. Designation of wilderness areas.

Sec. 1203. Designation of streams for wild and scenic river protection in the Mount Hood area.

Sec. 1204. Mount Hood National Recreation Area.

Sec. 1205. Protections for Crystal Springs, Upper Big Bottom, and Cultus Creek.

Sec. 1206. Land exchanges.

Sec. 1207. Tribal provisions; planning and studies.

Subtitle D—Copper Salmon Wilderness, Oregon

Sec. 1301. Designation of the Copper Salmon Wilderness.

Sec. 1302. Wild and Scenic River Designations, Elk River, Oregon.

Sec. 1303. Protection of tribal rights.

Subtitle E—Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Oregon

Sec. 1401. Definitions.

Sec. 1402. Voluntary grazing lease donation program.

Sec. 1403. Box R Ranch land exchange.

Sec. 1404. Deerfield land exchange.

Sec. 1405. Soda Mountain Wilderness.

Sec. 1406. Effect.

Subtitle F—Owyhee Public Land Management

Sec. 1501. Definitions.

Sec. 1502. Owyhee Science Review and Conservation Center.

Sec. 1503. Wilderness areas.

Sec. 1504. Designation of wild and scenic rivers.

Sec. 1505. Land identified for disposal.

Sec. 1506. Tribal cultural resources.

Sec. 1507. Recreational travel management plans.

Sec. 1508. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle G—Sabinoso Wilderness, New Mexico

Sec. 1601. Definitions.

Sec. 1602. Designation of the Sabinoso Wilderness.

Subtitle H—Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Wilderness

Sec. 1651. Definitions.

Sec. 1652. Designation of Beaver Basin Wilderness.

Sec. 1653. Administration.

Sec. 1654. Effect.

Subtitle I—Oregon Badlands Wilderness

Sec. 1701. Definitions.

Sec. 1702. Oregon Badlands Wilderness.

Sec. 1703. Release.

Sec. 1704. Land exchanges.

Sec. 1705. Protection of tribal treaty rights.

Subtitle J—Spring Basin Wilderness, Oregon

Sec. 1751. Definitions.

Sec. 1752. Spring Basin Wilderness.

Sec. 1753. Release.

Sec. 1754. Land exchanges.

Sec. 1755. Protection of tribal treaty rights.

Subtitle K—Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wilderness, California

Sec. 1801. Definitions.

Sec. 1802. Designation of wilderness areas.

Sec. 1803. Administration of wilderness areas.

Sec. 1804. Release of wilderness study areas.

Sec. 1805. Designation of wild and scenic rivers.

Sec. 1806. Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area.

Sec. 1807. Management of area within Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Sec. 1808. Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest.

Subtitle L—Riverside County Wilderness, California

Sec. 1851. Wilderness designation.

Sec. 1852. Wild and scenic river designations, Riverside County, California.

Sec. 1853. Additions and technical corrections to Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

Subtitle M—Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness, California

Sec. 1901. Definitions.

Sec. 1902. Designation of wilderness areas.

Sec. 1903. Administration of wilderness areas.

Sec. 1904. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle N—Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness, Colorado

Sec. 1951. Definitions.

Sec. 1952. Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness, Colorado.

Sec. 1953. Grand River Ditch and Colorado-Big Thompson projects.

Sec. 1954. East Shore Trail Area.

Sec. 1955. National forest area boundary adjustments.

Sec. 1956. Authority to lease Leiffer tract.

Subtitle O—Washington County, Utah

Sec. 1971. Definitions.

Sec. 1972. Wilderness areas.

Sec. 1973. Zion National Park wilderness.

Sec. 1974. Red Cliffs National Conservation Area.

Sec. 1975. Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area.

Sec. 1976. Zion National Park wild and scenic river designation.

Sec. 1977. Washington County comprehensive travel and transportation management plan.

Sec. 1978. Land disposal and acquisition.

Sec. 1979. Management of priority biological areas.

Sec. 1980. Public purpose conveyances.

Sec. 1981. Conveyance of Dixie National Forest land.

Sec. 1982. Transfer of land into trust for Shivwits Band of Paiute Indians.

Sec. 1983. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—National Landscape Conservation System

Sec. 2001. Definitions.

Sec. 2002. Establishment of the National Landscape Conservation System.

Sec. 2003. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Prehistoric Trackways National Monument

Sec. 2101. Findings.

Sec. 2102. Definitions.

Sec. 2103. Establishment.

Sec. 2104. Administration.

Sec. 2105. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle C—Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area

Sec. 2201. Definitions.

Sec. 2202. Establishment of the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area.

Sec. 2203. Management of the Conservation Area.

Sec. 2204. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle D—Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area

Sec. 2301. Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.

Subtitle E—Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

Sec. 2401. Definitions.

Sec. 2402. Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.

Sec. 2403. Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area.

Sec. 2404. Maps and legal descriptions.

Sec. 2405. Management of Conservation Area and Wilderness.

Sec. 2406. Management plan.

Sec. 2407. Advisory council.

Sec. 2408. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle F—Rio Puerco Watershed Management Program

Sec. 2501. Rio Puerco Watershed Management Program.

Subtitle G—Land Conveyances and Exchanges

Sec. 2601. Carson City, Nevada, land conveyances.